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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 8 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in February 1999.

1 February 1999

Between 0015 and 0630 hours the client militia fired several 81-mm and 120-mm mortar shells at Sujud hill from its positions at Sujud hill itself, Zafatah and Aramta.

At 0845 hours an Israeli gunboat off Bayadah fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in all directions.

Between 0935 and 1140 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the North, the Western Bekaa, the Shuf and Alayh at high altitudes breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1340 and 1430 hours occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Mazra'at Buyut al-Siyad from their positions at Tall Ya'qub and Hardhun.

Between 2125 and 2220 hours occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 81-mm mortar shells at the abandoned Army barracks in Nabatiyah from their positions at Zafatah, Dabshah hill and Tallusah.

2 February 1999

Between 0210 and 0515 hours Israeli forces fired several 120-mm mortar shells at areas along the Tasah Spring and parts of Jabal Sujud from their position at Ksarat al-Urush.

For unknown reasons, the Lahad militia's Bayt Yahun crossing remained closed to passage.

Between 1650 and 2130 hours occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Mazra'at al-Hamra and Kafr Rumman from their positions at Shurayfah and Zafatah, on Rum, Dabshah and Suwayda hills and at Aramta.

Between 1740 and 1830 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew outlying areas of Zibqin and Yatar.

At 2325 hours Israeli forces fired four 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Haddatha from their position at Tall Ya'qub.

3 February 1999

Between 1000 and 1145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitudes. At 1045 hours they attacked Jabal Safi and the outskirts of Mlikh, firing two air-to-surface missiles.

Between 1300 and 1525 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at various altitudes. They dropped heat balloons in the Tyre area and carried out mock attacks in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

Between 2200 and 2210 hours the client militia fired several 120-mm and 81-mm mortar shells and 155-mm artillery shells at areas along the Zahrani River and at Jabal al-Rafi' from their positions at Zafatah, Tahrah and Suwayda.

Between 2325 and 2350 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at areas along the Tasah Spring and at Mlikh from their position at Shurayfah.

4 February 1999

At 0750 hours Israeli forces fired two 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Majdal Zun from their position on Hardhun hill.

Between 0835 and 0930 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells and a number of direct-fire projectiles at the outskirts of Mlikh, Mlita hill, parts of Jabal Sujud and areas along the Tasah Spring from their positions at Shurayfah and Ksarat al-Urush.

Between 1040 and 1445 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Sidon East and Western Bekaa areas at high altitude.

Between 1610 and 1635 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Jba' and Yuhmur al-Shaqif from their position at Shurayfah.

Between 1845 and 2120 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at the Yuhmur al-Shaqif lowland, Jabal al-Rafi', the outskirts of Luwayzah and Jabal Sujud from their position at Shurayfah.

5 February 1999

At 0135 hours Israeli forces fired five 120-mm mortar shells at Jabal Abu Rashid from their position on Ahmadiyah hill.

At 1715 hours Israeli forces fired four 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm from their position at Tall Ya'qub.

At 2200 hours Israeli forces strafed the Mimis sector, Jabal al-Dahr, the Mimis road and Marj al-Zuhur with machine-gun fire from their positions on Ayn Qinya hill and Zaghlah hill and at Zimriya.

At 2300 hours Israeli forces sent up five illumination flares over their position on Ahmadiyah hill.

6 February 1999

At 1300 hours the Lahad militia fired several 120-mm mortar shells at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from its position at Abu Qamhah.

At 1605 hours the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Jba' and Mazra'at Umqata, parts of Sujud hill and the town of Mlikh from its positions at Ksarat al-Urush, Zafatah and Shurayfah.

Between 2010 and 2200 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm, Majdal Zun, Izziyah, Khirbat Silm and Yatar from their positions at Tall Ya'qub and Mays al-Jabal.

7 February 1999

Between 0650 and 0715 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at the outskirts of Bra'shit and Haddatha from their positions at Saff al-Hawa' and Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

The client militia prevented the inhabitants of Mays al-Jabal, Hula, Blida and Aytrun from leaving for the liberated areas.

Between 0945 and 1035 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa at high altitudes, and Israeli helicopters overflew Ahmadiyah hill.

At 1500 hours occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired four 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Sarba and Zibqin and several

direct-fire projectiles at areas along the Tasah Spring, Mlita hill and Wadi Habbush from their positions at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal and Tallusah.

At 2025 hours the client militia strafed areas around its positions on Sala'ah hill and Rum hill with medium-weapons fire.

At 2030 hours Israeli forces fired six 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

8 February 1999

Between 1245 and 1300 hours the client militia fired three 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar and Jarju' from its position on Sujud hill.

At 1500 hours occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Sarba and Zibqin and a number of direct-fire projectiles at areas along the Tasah Spring, Mlita hill and Wadi Habbush from their positions at Zafatah, Ayshiyah, Ksarat al-Urush and Aramta and on Dabshah, Ali al-Tahir and Sujud hills.

At 2025 hours the client militia strafed the area around its positions on Sala'ah hill and Rum hill with medium-weapons fire.

At 2030 hours Israeli forces fired six 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

9 February 1999

At 1215 hours the client militia fired eight 60-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Qusayr from its position in Qusayr itself.

Between 1545 and 1600 hours the client militia fired eight 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah and Saluqi from its position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

Between 2000 and 2145 hours the occupying Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 81-mm and 120-mm mortar shells at parts of Sujud hill, areas along the Tasah Spring and outlying areas of Tulin from their positions at Sala'ah and Ksarat al-Urush, on Shurayfah hill and at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 2325 hours Israeli forces fired nine 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their positions at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

10 February 1999

Between 1450 and 1500 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tibnin and Tyre areas at various altitudes.

Between 1015 and 1530 hours two Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre and Tibnin areas, inside the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), at high altitudes.

At 1655 hours the client militia fired four 120-mm mortar shells at Mazra'at Yuhmur from its position at Zafatah.

At 1700 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah area came under Israeli artillery fire, which cut off power supply between Luwayzah and Jarjui'.

At 1835 hours Israeli forces fired several 1545-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Yuhmur from their position at Shurayfah.

11 February 1999

Between 0500 and 0600 hours an Israeli boat off Mansuri fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in all directions.

Between 0900 and 1300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Bekaa, the North, Mount Lebanon and the South at high altitudes breaking the sound barrier.

Between 1550 and 1650 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the wadi between Tunin and Qallawiyah, inside the UNIFIL area of operations, firing eight air-to-surface missiles.

Between 1840 and 2010 hours an Israeli gunboat offshore between Haddatha and Ra's al-Bayadah fired several illumination flares and a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire over the coast.

12 February 1999

Between 0815 and 0820 hours the client militia fired several 120-mm mortar shells at Jabal al-Rafi' from its position at Zafatah.

Between 0900 and 1330 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitudes.

Between 1500 and 1700 hours the client militia strafed the area around its positions at Markaba and Brak with medium-weapons fire.

At 1950 hours the client militia fired three 81-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Ghanduriyah from its position at Qusayr.

At 2105 hours the client militia fired several 120-mm mortar shells at areas around Mlikh from its position on Sujud hill.

13 February 1999

At 0410 hours the client militia fired five 155-mm artillery shells at the Yuhmur al-Shaqif lowland.

At 1340 hours the client militia strafed the area around its position on Rum hill with medium-weapons fire.

At 2335 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at the area around Sujud hill.

At 2345 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at the outskirts of Sujud and areas along the Tasah Spring from its position in Shurayfah.

14 February 1999

Between 1015 and 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitudes. At 1510 hours they attacked outlying areas of Yatar and Jibal al-Butm, firing one air-to-surface missile.

The client militia prevented the inhabitants of Mays al-Jabal, Aytrun and Muhaybib from leaving for the liberated areas by way of the Bayt Yahun crossing.

At 1540 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Asi locality between Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin, firing two air-to-surface missiles.

Between 2015 and 2225 hours the client militia fired several 81-mm mortar shells and direct-fire projectiles at outlying areas of Majdal Zun from its positions on Rum hill and Rahamin hill.

15 February 1999

Between 1010 and 1025 hours the client militia fired six 81-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Ayta al-Jabal and Bra'shit from its positions at Shaqif al-Naml and Ba'lawil hill.

Between 1050 and 1200 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tyre and Tibnin areas.

At 1550 hours Israeli warplanes launched an attack on the area south of Jibal al-Butm close to Yatar, firing a number of missiles.

Between 1900 and 1905 hours Israeli forces fired four 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 2030 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights came under intermittent artillery fire from Israeli forces.

16 February 1999

Between 0500 and 0530 hours an Israeli gunboat off Mansuri fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in all directions.

Between 0625 and 0645 hours Israeli forces fired 10 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Tayr Harfa, Majdal Zun, Izziyah and Yatar from their position at Tall Ya'qub.

At 0930 hours the client militia fired three 120-mm mortar shells at Mazra'at Umqata from its position at Rayhan.

At 1500 hours Israeli forces began an intense artillery bombardment of the area between the Sujud position and the Zahrani River.

Between 1540 and 1600 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar shells at Jabal Safi, areas along the Tasah Spring and Mazra'at Umqata from their positions at Zafatah and Shurayfah.

17 February 1999

Between 0830 and 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South and the coastal area of the Shuf at high altitudes dropping heat balloons in the Tyre area.

At 0955 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa from south to north at high altitudes.

Between 1220 and 1600 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at high altitudes dropping heat balloons in the Tyre area.

Between 1825 and 2115 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and directed a number of bursts of medium-weapons fire at outlying areas of Yuhmur, Wadi al-Qaysiyah and the area around the Militia position at Bayt Yahun from their positions at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal, Zafatah and Bayt Yahun.

18 February 1999

Between 0300 and 0645 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Yuhmur, Yatar and Majdal Zun and at Wadi al-Qaysiyah from their positions at Tall Ya'qub, Mays al-Jabal and Zafatah.

Between 0900 and 0915 hours the client militia fired several 81-mm and 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Bra'shit and Haddatha from its positions at Saff al-Hawa' and Bra'shit.

Between 1800 hours and 2200 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Haddatha, the Yuhmur lowland, areas along the Tasah Spring and Jabal Safi from their positions at Shurayfah, Rayhan, Ksarat al-Urush, Zafatah and Sujud hill.

Between 1940 and 2000 hours the client militia fired seven 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi Kafra from its position at Dahr al-Ramlah.

19 February 1999

Between 0600 and 0700 hours Israeli forces fired 32 155-mm artillery shells at Jabal Abu Rashid and Tumat Jazzin from their position at Abu Qamhah.

At 0605 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from their position on Ahmadiyah hill.

At 1200 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position at Qal'at al-Shaqif (Château de Beaufort) over the heads of people returning in groups towards Nabatiyah.

At 1430 hours the client militia strafed the area around its position at the Mimis crossing with medium-weapons fire.

At 2213 hours Israeli forces fired eight 155-mm artillery shells at Jabal Abu Rashid from their position at Abu Qamhah.

20 February 1999

Between 0135 and 0145 hours 15 81-mm mortar shells were fired at the area around the Jabbur pool from the occupied strip.

At 2015 hours a 120-mm mortar shell fired from a client militia position on Tahrah hill landed near Qal'at Qarqamaz in an outlying area of Niha al-Shuf.

Between 2120 and 2140 hours Israeli forces fired 11 155-mm artillery shells at Iqlim al-Tuffah from their position on Shurayfah hill.

At 2130 hours Israeli forces began a concentrated artillery bombardment of the area around the Jabbur pool in the Western Bekaa from their positions in the occupied strip.

21 February 1999

Between 0430 and 0445 hours three Israeli helicopters flew offshore between Abu al-Aswad and Khayzaran before leaving in the direction of the occupied strip.

Between 1515 and 1530 hours the client militia fired several 120-mm mortar shells at areas along the Litani River from its position on Ahmadiyah hill.

Between 1810 and 2110 hours an Israeli helicopter flew over Qal'at al-Shaqif (Château de Beaufort) and as far as the Western Bekaa area.

Between 2050 and 2110 hours an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Sidon East and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at high altitude.

At 2350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Western Bekaa at high altitudes.

22 February 1999

At 1415 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Wadi Yarin, between Butm and Zibqin, firing two air-to-ground missiles. They continued on and overflew Nabatiyah at low altitudes dropping heat balloons.

At 1420 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Wadi al-Asi, between Jibal al-Butm and Siddiqin, firing two air-to-surface missiles.

Between 1950 and 2005 hours the client militia fired several 81-mm mortar shells and bursts of medium-weapons fire at outlying areas of Haddatha and Ayta al-Jabal from its position at Shaqif al-Naml.

At 2130 hours the client militia fired several 81-mm and 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Haddatha and Yatar from its positions at Shaqif al-Naml, Qawzah and Saff al-Hawa'.

23 February 1999

Between 0130 and 0215 hours Israeli forces fired 75 155-mm artillery shells at Jabal Ayn al-Tinah, the area around Ayn al-Tinah town and areas along the Litani River opposite Zillaya from their positions at Ibl al-Saqi, Ahmadiyah, Shurayfah and Abu Qamhah.

At 0255 hours Israeli warplanes attacked areas along the Litani River opposite Zillaya and Yuhmur firing two air-to-surface missiles.

At 1115 hours the client militia fired three 120-mm mortar shells at outlying areas of Azur from its position on Rum hill.

Between 1130 and 1325 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Mount Lebanon, the North and the South at high altitudes.

At 1615 hours the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights as far as the Litani River came under intense Israeli artillery fire while numerous Israeli warplanes overflew the area and carried out mock attacks.

24 February 1999

Between 1110 and 1250 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Shuf area at medium altitudes.

Between 1215 and 1230 hours an Israeli gunboat off Mansuri fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire in all directions.

Between 1300 and 1330 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the South at various altitudes, and an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Tibnin, Nabatiyah, Iqlim al-Tuffah and Sidon East areas at high altitude.

Between 1530 and 1550 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells and 120-mm mortar shells at areas along the

Tasah Spring, Wadi al-Luwayzah and Mlikh from their positions at Zafatah, Shurayfah and Ksarat al-Urush.

At 1655 hours an Israeli helicopter strafed Wadi al-Saluki, east of Qabrikha, with medium-weapons fire.

25 February 1999

At 0700 hours Israeli forces fired four 155-mm artillery shells at Wadi al-Qaysiyah, west of Majdal Silm, from their position at Mays al-Jabal.

Between 1330 and 1335 hours Israeli forces fired several direct-fire projectiles and directed several bursts of 12.7-mm fire at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from their position on Zaghlah hill.

Between 1400 and 1405 hours Israeli forces fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Qabrikha and Wadi al-Saluqi from their position at Bawwabat Mays al-Jabal.

At 1510 hours the client militia directed several bursts of 23-mm fire at the Zimriya crossing from its position at Zaghlah.

Between 1700 and 1715 hours Israeli forces fired eight 120-mm mortar shells at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from their position at Abu Qamhah and 10 81-mm mortar shells at the Jabbur pool from their position at Ahmadiyah.

26 February 1999

At 1300 hours the client militia fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire at the Mimis crossing from its position at Zimriya.

At 2020 hours Israeli artillery shelled Wadi al-Qaysiyah and machine-gun fire was directed at the outskirts of Qabrikha from the Qantarah position.

At 2145 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Wadi al-Hujayr, Wadi al-Saluqi and the outskirts of Qabrikha and Majdal Silm.

At 2108 hours an Israeli boat was seen 3 kilometres off Ra's al-Ayn heading for Tyre.

At 2155 hours Israeli forces and the client militia fired several 155-mm artillery shells at outlying areas of Yuhmur and Kafur from their positions at Zafatah and Shurayfah.

27 February 1999

At 1030 hours the client militia fired three 155-mm artillery shells at Jabal Bi'r al-Dahr from its position at Abu Qamhah.

At 1055 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire from their position at Qal'at al-Shaqif (Château de Beaufort).

At 1217 hours Israeli forces fired several bursts of medium-weapons fire as local Lebanese residents were approaching the road leading to the fortress.

At 1440 hours Israeli warplanes attacked Jabal al-Rafi', firing two air-to-surface missiles.

Between 2040 and 2115 hours an Israeli helicopter overflew Mazra'at al-Ruhban.

At 2220 hours the client militia fired two 81-mm mortar shells at Wadi al-Saluqi from its position at Tallusah.

28 February 1999

At 1020 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the North at high altitudes.

Between 1120 and 1150 hours Israeli forces fired 15 120-mm mortar shells at Qilya and Dallafi from their position on Ahmadiyah hill.

At 1200 hours Wadi Zillaya and the Jabbur pool, in the Western Bekaa, came under Israeli artillery fire from positions at Kawkaba and Abu Qamhah and in the Khiyam lowland.

For unknown reasons, the client militia closed the crossing gates at Rum and at Kafr Hunah at 1500 hours.

Between 1510 and 1530 hours Israeli forces fired 12 155-mm artillery shells at areas along the Wadi al-Litani opposite Zillaya from their positions at Shurayfah and Abu Qamhah.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and the fresh attacks and arbitrary practices against the Lebanese civilian population that have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative